

APPENDIX B

Other Planning Efforts Relevant to the Lower Feather River Corridor Management Plan

APPENDIX B. OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS RELEVANT TO THE LOWER FEATHER RIVER CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

This appendix describes planning efforts that have been completed or are under way within the *Lower Feather River Management Plan* (LFRCMP) study area, the larger Feather River watershed, or adjacent portions of the Sacramento Valley. In many cases, the other planning efforts overlap the geographic boundary of the LFRCMP and/or their goals and objectives overlap those of the LFRCMP. These plans are relevant to the LFRCMP because they were an information source or otherwise contributed to its development. The LFRCMP also has the potential to positively affect some of these planning efforts.

The potential synergies between the LFRCMP and these plans are described below. The following discussion draws extensively from a similar discussion in Attachment 9E, “Existing Conservation Objectives from Other Plans,” of the *2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan* (DWR 2012).

B.1 FEATHER RIVER PARKWAY STRATEGIC PLAN

Yuba City’s *Feather River Parkway Strategic Plan* (Strategic Plan) (City of Yuba City 2002) describes a land use vision for a 6-mile reach of the Feather River from the Pease Road alignment in the north to the Shanghai Rapids in the south. Six specific planning subareas are described in the Strategic Plan, four of which are contained wholly or in part within the LFRCMP study area. The Strategic Plan is guided by 10 interrelated objectives (RRM Design Group 2002:I-1):

- ▶ Create a safe public space.
- ▶ Create an extensive river trail system for pedestrians and cyclists.
- ▶ Preserve natural areas and wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Restore or naturalize areas to their former natural condition.
- ▶ Create new amenities and improve upon existing amenities.
- ▶ Create passive and active recreational facilities.
- ▶ Create a civic destination and attraction.
- ▶ Establish a direct connection between the river and the city’s downtown area.
- ▶ Educate the parkway user about the river and its ecosystem.
- ▶ Capitalize on potential commercial opportunities near the project area.

For each planning subarea, the Strategic Plan describes specific project concepts consistent with these 10 objectives. Project concepts within the four subareas that overlap with the LFRCMP study area can be summarized as follows.

- ▶ *Subarea C: Downtown.* Project concepts for this subarea focus on creating a centerpiece for public use of the Feather River Parkway; thus, specific concepts include construction of developed trails, plazas, a pavilion, and similar improvements and public facilities.
- ▶ *Subarea D: Mosquito Beach.* Concepts include major modifications to the existing Mosquito Beach camping facility, a new marina, a commercial area, a new park, and recreational trails.

- ▶ *Subarea E: Woodland and Wetland.* Concepts for this subarea focus on preservation of existing natural resource values and construction of public facilities such as trails, educational kiosks, fishing platforms, and viewing platforms consistent with the preservation and public interpretation of natural resource values.
- ▶ *Subarea F: Shanghai Bend.* Concepts are similar to those for Subarea E and focus on the preservation of existing natural resource values and the provision of compatible public recreational and educational uses.

LFRCMP management actions that would assist in, or would be consistent with, providing additional public access and education opportunities along the Feather River upstream of Shanghai Bend would make a positive contribution to the Strategic Plan's objectives. LFRCMP actions focused on restoring habitat and modifying floodway maintenance practices to minimize adverse effects on natural resource values would also make a significant positive contribution to the Strategic Plan's objectives. The objectives of the *Feather River Parkway Strategic Plan* are reflected in some of the management actions described in Chapter 5, and in Appendix N, "Conceptual Recreation Plan."

B.2 SUTTER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The *Sutter County General Plan* (Sutter County 2010) includes several goals, policies, and implementation measures relating to agricultural resources, parks and recreation, biological resources and open space, water resources, and flood protection. Those relevant to the LFRCMP are listed below.

- ▶ Goal AG 1, Policies AG 1.1 and AG1.5, and associated implementation measures relating to agricultural land preservation
- ▶ Goal PS 6; Policies PS 6.1 and PS 6.10; Goal PS 7, Policies PS 7.1, PS 7.3, and PS 7.4; and associated implementation measures relating to parks, recreational facilities, and trails, particularly trails and facilities associated with providing public access to the Feather River
- ▶ Goals ER 1 through ER 4, associated policies, and associated implementation measures, all of which focus on conserving, protecting, and enhancing Sutter County's unique natural resources
- ▶ Goal ER 6 and Policy ER 6.2, which focus on protecting the Feather River's surface water resources
- ▶ Goal PHS 1, Policies PHS 1.2 and PHS 1.6, and associated implementation measures focusing on minimizing the risk of flood damage and on interagency coordination in working toward this goal

Other LFRCMP management actions would positively contribute to the goals and policies of the Sutter County General Plan, specifically those that would maintain existing agricultural uses in the study area; support the construction of additional recreational facilities within the floodway (e.g., boat ramps, fishing access points, and trails); enhance and restore riparian, wetland, and other habitats to benefit native fish and wildlife; and maintain or enhance floodwater conveyance capacity.

B.3 YUBA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The Natural Resources Element of the *Yuba County 2030 General Plan* (Yuba County 2011) contains goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures intended to guide Yuba County's approach to the following resource issues:

- ▶ Preservation of open space
- ▶ Extraction and use of natural resources
- ▶ Conservation of agricultural, cultural, and natural resources
- ▶ Restoration of natural resources

In addition, Policy NR1.16 states: "Natural and recreational open space areas should be provided along the Feather River, Yuba River, and Gold Fields...."

Implementing the LFRCMP would help meet many of the goals described in the general plan, including the provision of natural and recreational open space along the Feather River. Specifically, LFRCMP management actions focused on restoring riparian and wetland habitats would contribute to the general plan's goals and objectives related to fish and wildlife habitat, open space preservation, and conservation of valley oaks. LFRCMP actions focused on preserving existing agricultural uses in the study area would contribute to the general plan's goals and objectives related to agricultural land preservation. Finally, LFRCMP actions focused on public use and recreation would support aspects of the general plan related to trails, public recreation, and similar public uses of the corridor along the Feather River.

B.4 CALFED MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (MSCS) (CALFED 2000) was developed to describe the habitat acquisition, restoration, and enhancement actions that could be implemented throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin River systems, including the Feather River, to maintain and enhance the ecological health of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta). The MSCS largely describes these actions at a conceptual and programmatic level.

CALFED also supports actions intended to improve the reliability and quality of water diversions from the Delta. The CALFED MSCS addresses 244 special-status species and 20 habitats and includes several measurable conservation objectives. Among these objectives are to restore approximately 3,650 acres in the Sacramento River Region and to enhance and restore riparian habitat associated with the restoration of 18,000–26,000 acres of stream channel meander corridors in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river regions.

LFRCMP management actions focused on restoring riparian habitat, seasonal floodplain habitat, and the river's natural hydrologic and geomorphic processes (e.g., removing bank revetment) would contribute to the conservation objectives of the MSCS.

B.5 RESTORATION PLAN FOR THE ANADROMOUS FISHERIES RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a program that makes all reasonable efforts to double natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley streams (Section 3406[b][1]). The program is known as the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP).

The AFRP Restoration Plan (Restoration Plan) (USFWS 2001) is a programmatic description of the AFRP in broad terms that will be used to guide the long-term development of the AFRP. The Restoration Plan presents the goals, objectives, and strategies of the AFRP; describes how the AFRP identified and prioritized reasonable actions and evaluations; lists those actions and evaluations; and notes actions and evaluations that are already under way or that may be implemented in the near future. It relies on the authorities and resources provided by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to meet its overall goal of doubling fish, as well as the cooperation of other State and federal resource management agencies, public and private organizations, and landowners. The AFRP covers all species of anadromous fish in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, including Chinook salmon and steelhead.

As indicated above, the Restoration Plan includes a detailed list of actions recommended to meet the AFRP's fish-doubling goal. The actions vary, but they include several to which the LFRCMP could contribute, such as:

- ▶ removing fish passage barriers,
- ▶ restoring habitat (including shaded riverine aquatic habitat),
- ▶ enhancing aquatic habitat (e.g., adding spawning gravels),
- ▶ restoring seasonal floodplains (e.g., removing accumulated sediment to lower floodplain elevations), and
- ▶ restoring natural river processes (e.g., removing bank revetment).

Modified floodway operations and maintenance (O&M) practices would also contribute to the Restoration Plan and the AFRP's goal and objectives. Although the benefits are not specifically discussed in the Restoration Plan, many of the plan's recommended actions could have multiobjective benefits, including flood risk reduction for communities surrounding the LFRCMP reach of the Feather River.

B.6 RIPARIAN BIRD CONSERVATION PLAN

The *Riparian Bird Conservation Plan* is a collaborative effort of the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture that has been developed to guide conservation policies and actions on behalf of California's riparian habitats and wildlife (RHJV 2004). This plan focuses on bird species associated with riparian habitat, but implementing the plan's conservation recommendations would benefit many other riparian-associated species. The goals of the *Riparian Bird Conservation Plan* are as follows:

- ▶ Emphasize what is needed to conserve both populations of species and species assemblages, which are defined as groups of naturally co-occurring bird species.
- ▶ Synthesize and summarize current scientific knowledge of the requirements of birds in riparian habitats.

- ▶ Provide recommendations for habitat protection, restoration, management, monitoring, and policy to ensure the long-term persistence of birds and other wildlife dependent on riparian ecosystems.
- ▶ Support and inform efforts to increase the overall acreage and effectiveness of riparian habitat conservation efforts in California by funding and promoting on-the-ground conservation projects.

LFRCMP management actions focused on restoring riparian and wetland habitats and on modifying floodway O&M practices within riparian and wetland habitats would contribute to the habitat restoration and conservation goals of the *Riparian Bird Conservation Plan*.

B.7 LOWER FEATHER RIVER COMPLEX OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) guidance for management of the Feather River Wildlife Area is based in part on the *Lower Feather River Complex Operations and Maintenance Plan* (DFG 1988). The Feather River Wildlife Area, owned and managed by CDFW, includes six units: Abbott Lake, Star Bend, O'Connor Lakes, Lake of the Woods, Nelson Slough, and Shanghai Bend. CDFW manages these lands to protect and enhance wildlife habitat while providing public access that is compatible with the well-being of wildlife and their associated habitats (DFG 1988). The guidance provided in this operations and maintenance plan has been incorporated into the habitat enhancement goals described in Chapter 4.

B.8 THE YUBA ACCORD

The Yuba Accord includes a fisheries agreement (YCWA 2007) that establishes a river management team composed of representatives from Yuba County Water Agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, CDFW, the California Department of Water Resources, and four nongovernmental signatories. Together they cooperatively manage the flows of the lower Yuba River below Englebright Reservoir according to guidance criteria, and allocate funds for the monitoring and evaluation of fisheries resources and habitat conditions. LFRCMP actions resulting in improvements to fisheries habitat within the Feather River would presumably make a positive contribution to the fish enhancement provisions of the Yuba Accord.

B.9 REGIONAL ADVANCE MITIGATION PLANNING

The Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) initiative has been in development by a multiagency work group since 2008. The RAMP initiative is developing mitigation processes that integrate project-specific mitigation with regional and statewide conservation priorities, and that offset unavoidable impacts of planned infrastructure projects before construction begins. This approach minimizes permitting and regulatory delays and reduces mitigation costs by conserving valuable natural resources at an economically efficient scale, before potential mitigation lands are converted to incompatible land uses.

Designating RAMP-sponsored mitigation sites in strategic locations in the LFRCMP study area could speed approvals for the State's infrastructure agencies when the agencies seek permits for "take" of endangered species, fill of wetlands, or disturbance to streambeds and their banks. Adopting this strategic approach also could identify solutions that address regional conservation priorities and consider agricultural communities and land uses.

The RAMP Work Group has identified the following benefits that could result from implementing a RAMP program:

- ▶ Lower mitigation costs and simplified permitting for the infrastructure funding agency
- ▶ Fewer permitting or regulatory delays
- ▶ Greater ecological and financial predictability
- ▶ Mitigation site planning, management, and monitoring efficiencies
- ▶ Ability to focus on large-scale conservation to benefit sensitive species through higher quality habitat, improved connectivity between habitat areas, and better long-term protection
- ▶ Ability to leverage and assist ongoing conservation efforts

The RAMP Work Group has developed a statewide framework document (RAMP Work Group 2011a) that describes the goals, benefits, and operational framework of a statewide RAMP initiative. In addition, the RAMP Work Group has completed the *Regional Assessment of the Central Sacramento Valley: Multi-Agency and Multi-Year Opportunities for Mitigation and Conservation in the Sacramento River Watershed* (Regional Assessment) (RAMP Work Group 2011b). The Regional Assessment addresses an approximately 1,500 square-mile-area encompassing all or portions of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba counties. The LFRCMP study area is encompassed within the Regional Assessment area.

The LFRCMP and RAMP are complementary regional planning efforts. RAMP offers a framework for the proposed restoration projects described in the LFRCMP to provide compensatory mitigation, in advance, for the potential impacts of flood management activities in the Lower Feather River corridor.

B.10 YUBA-SUTTER REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN

The *Yuba-Sutter Regional Conservation Plan* (YSRCP) will be a natural communities conservation plan/habitat conservation plan. It is a cooperative planning effort initiated by Yuba and Sutter counties in connection with improvements to State Routes 99 and 70 and future development in the area surrounding those highways. In addition to the two counties, participants include the California Department of Transportation, USFWS, and CDFW.

To date, only the November 2012 Planning Agreement (by and among Yuba and Sutter counties; the Cities of Live Oak, Wheatland, and Yuba City; CDFW; and USFWS) is readily available. Much of the YSRCP, including the discussion of the planning area and covered species, is preliminary. According to the Planning Agreement, the planning area comprises 468,552 acres and includes most of Sutter County and large portions of western Yuba County. Currently, 18 species are proposed to be covered by the plan (14 animals and four plants), including the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), giant garter snake, Swainson's hawk, yellow-billed cuckoo, and bank swallow. The natural communities and land cover types that will be covered by the YSRCP include riverine, riparian, and wetland habitats.

Exhibit B-1 shows the location of the LFRCMP study area in the YSRCP planning area. Given the geographic overlap between the two programs, LFRCMP management actions are likely to significantly contribute to YSRCP objectives related to preservation and restoration of riparian and wetland habitats and the special-status plant and animal species found in these habitats.

B.11 VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE RECOVERY PLAN

The *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (VELB Recovery Plan) (USFWS 1984) was created to summarize current knowledge of the VELB, prescribe actions necessary to acquire additional biological data, and provide preliminary recommendations for actions necessary for the species' preservation, maintenance, and recovery. The primary objectives of the VELB Recovery Plan are to:

- ▶ protect the three known localities that support VELB (at the time of plan development),
- ▶ survey riparian vegetation along certain Central Valley rivers for remaining VELB colonies and habitat,
- ▶ provide protection to remaining VELB habitat within its suspected historic range, and
- ▶ determine the number of sites and populations necessary to eventually delist the species.

According to the VELB Recovery Plan, information about VELB life history, distribution, and habitat requirements is insufficient; therefore, precise recommendations for recovery are not provided. Additionally, the conditions under which the species can be considered "recovered" are to be determined.

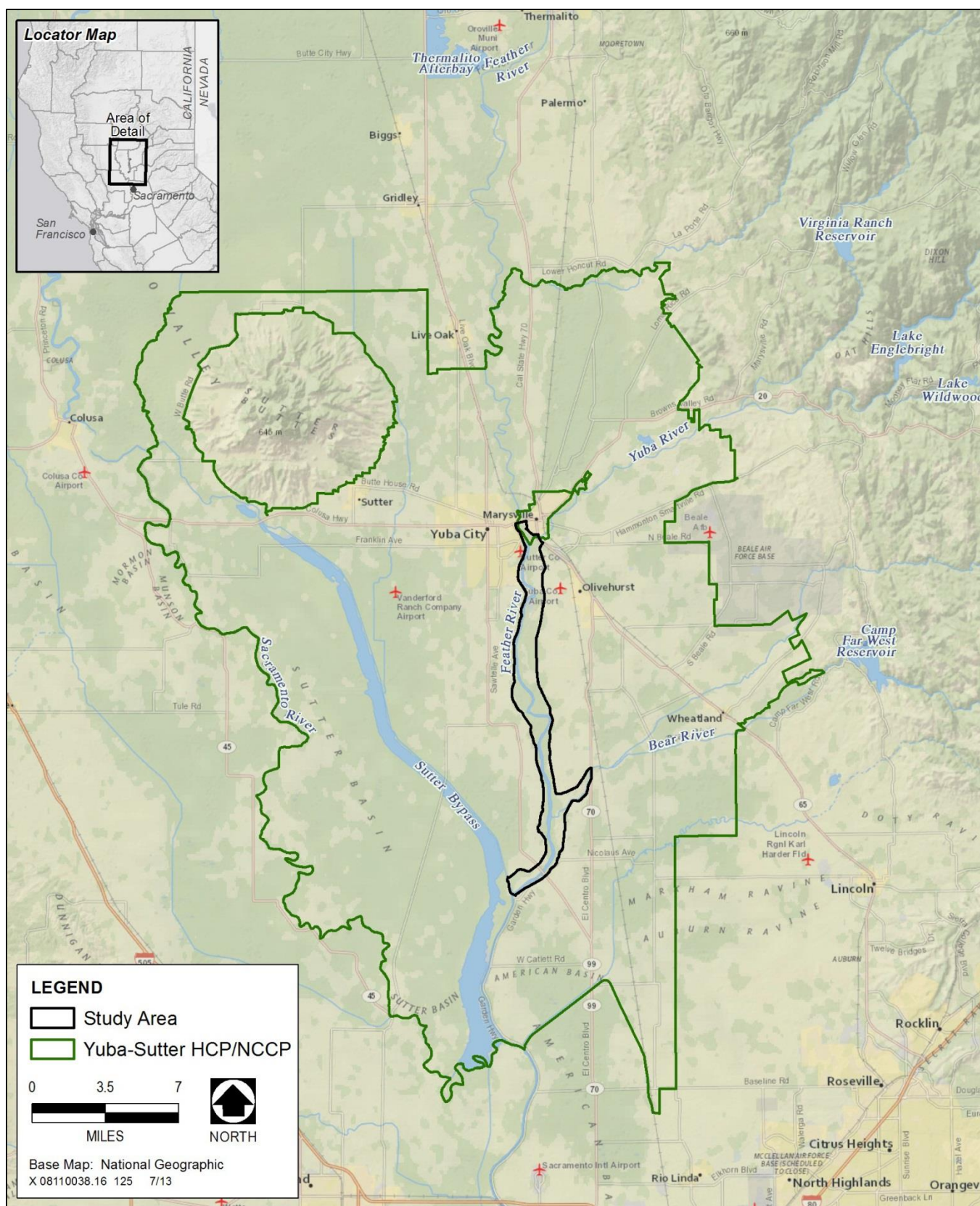
The entire historical distribution of the VELB is unknown; however, extensive destruction of riparian forests of the Central Valley during the past 150 years strongly suggests that the VELB's range has decreased and become fragmented. At the time that the VELB Recovery Plan was prepared, VELB was known from only a few locations. The species has since been documented in numerous locales throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, including several locations within the LFRCMP study area. USFWS is determining whether delisting VELB is warranted based on information collected since the species was originally listed.

LFRCMP actions resulting in the preservation, protection, and restoration or enhancement of VELB habitat (i.e., elderberry scrub and riparian woodland) would significantly contribute to the conservation objectives of the Recovery Plan.

B.12 CENTRAL VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

The Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) is one of six original joint ventures formed under the *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* to coordinate regional waterfowl conservation efforts. This collaborative planning group comprises 21 member agencies (primarily State and federal natural resources management and regulatory agencies) and nongovernmental organizations, as well as one corporation (Pacific Gas and Electric Company).

The CVJV focuses on all migratory birds in the Central Valley, including species such as yellow-billed cuckoo and bank swallow. The 2006 Implementation Plan of the CVJV broadened conservation activities to include numerical objectives for several habitats that support shorebirds, waterbirds, and riparian songbirds (CVJV 2006). The plan covers the entire Central Valley, including the LFRCMP study area.



Source: CDFW adapted by AECOM 2013

Exhibit B-1 Location of the LFRCMP Study Area in the Yuba-Sutter Regional Conservation Plan

LFRCMP actions resulting in expansion of riparian and wetland habitats would make significant contributions to the objectives of the CVJV. These would include active habitat restoration, removal of revetment, revised O&M practices, and similar actions that would either directly restore bird habitat or restore the fluvial and geomorphic processes that contribute to the formation of riparian and wetland habitats.

B.13 CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT–STATE WATER PROJECT OPERATIONS CRITERIA AND PLAN AND ASSOCIATED BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS

The National Marine Fisheries Service and USFWS prepared biological opinions that addressed the potential for implementation of the *Central Valley Project–State Water Project Operations Criteria and Plan* to adversely affect federally listed fish species (USFWS 2008). To minimize impacts on these species, each agency developed a set of reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) to the proposed operations criteria and plan (NMFS 2009; Reclamation 2004; USFWS 2008). Several RPAs focus on active habitat restoration or restoration of the fluvial-geomorphic processes (e.g., floodplain activation flows, sediment transport, erosion, and deposition) necessary to maintain and regenerate elements of aquatic habitat for salmonids and green sturgeon. LFRCMP management actions that would contribute to the restoration of natural river processes and aquatic and riparian habitats could contribute to several RPAs.

B.14 DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER SALMONID EVOLUTIONARILY SIGNIFICANT UNITS

The primary goal of the *Draft Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of Central Valley Steelhead* is to improve the viability of these species and remove them from the federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife. Among the plan's recovery actions are reintroducing fish into primary candidate watersheds in phases, restoring ecological flows throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins and Delta, conducting large-scale Delta ecosystem restoration efforts, restoring the functions of ecological habitat, and reducing predation by nonnative fish. LFRCMP management actions that would improve instream fish habitat and restore natural hydrologic and geomorphic processes would contribute to the goals of this recovery plan for spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead.

B.15 FEATHER RIVER REGION REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

DWR has launched the Regional Flood Management Planning effort to assist local agencies to develop long-term regional flood management plans that address local needs, articulate local and regional flood management priorities, identify potential funding sources for flood projects, and establish the common vision of regional partners. DWR will provide funding and resource support to help develop regional plans consistent with the 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The Yuba County Water Agency, Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority, Marysville Levee Commission, and Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency have partnered with DWR to develop the *Feather River Region Regional Flood Management Plan* (RFMP) which reflects the flood management priorities of the Feather River Region (DWR 2014). The LFRCMP proposed management actions will be coordinated with the flood management priorities of the Feather River RFMP.

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